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Colleges May Question Membership in NSA

Student Leaders Criticize Organization
for Its Acceptance of Subsidy From CIA

BY KEN REICH

Times Staff Writer

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Membership of college and university student body organizations in the National Student Assn. is expected to become a major subject of debate after disclosures it was secretly subsidized 14 years by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The NSA, student leaders said locally, already has been challenged on many campuses as ineffective. Even before this week's disclosures, sharp debate was proceeding at USC and Cal State L.A. on the question of affiliation.

Initial student reaction in California and the nation to confirmation of the CIA subsidy apparently is highly critical.

At Cal State L.A., the student body president, Ronald Robinson, said he believes last year's narrow decision to stay in the NSA would be reversed.

Referendum Wanted

At USC, the president of the Trojan Young Republicans pledged to press for a student referendum on last Sunday's 12 to 4 decision by the Executive Council of the student government to reaffiliate with the NSA after an absence of 10 years.

Critical statements about the CIA subsidy came from David Harris, Stanford student body president, and Dan McIntosh, president of students at UC Berkeley.

McIntosh, who is one of 10 members of the NSA's national supervisory board, called the subsidy a "shocking thing" before he departed for an emergency meeting of the board in Washington, D.C.

He emphasized he had not been aware of it.

Harris said he was "pretty sure" that the

NSA was receiving CIA support after he attended its national convention last summer.

He said the national officers admitted privately they were receiving money through foundations.

"But they didn't think they were being infiltrated," the Stanford student leader said. "They just thought they were picking up some easy money."

Although Harris said he thought the NSA officers "have enough brains not to be used," he contended the association's international program is "much too much" under State Department influence.

Editorial Opinion

Most college and university student newspapers have not yet commented editorially on the issue.

One which has — the Daily Spectator at New York's Columbia University — said:

"The disclosure that the NSA had been receiving funds until last year from the CIA reflects discredit on both organizations. It is shameful that the CIA has engaged in financing the student group, but it is equally deplorable that the NSA — which claims to represent over 300 schools — should have accepted such aid.

"Clearly no organization which pretends to objectivity can afford an affiliation with such an association as the CIA."

David Langsam, president of the Columbia Student Council, said his group intends to call for an investigation into the internal affairs of the NSA.

"If such an investigation finds the group is truly riddled with espionage elements, then we will call

FOUNDATIONS FOR CIA ACTIVITY QUESTIONED

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A member of the CIA "watchdog" committee in the U.S. Senate said Wednesday he wants to find out what authority the intelligence agency

had for infiltrating National Student Assn. ranks.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), recently named to the committee which is supposed to review Central Intelligence Agency activities, told an International Hotel news conference he was "surprised" to learn the CIA was involved in what appeared to be "internal security matters."

"I'm not in a position to condemn or condone the CIA alliance with the college students' organization," said the senator, who also addressed a UCLA meeting Wednesday. "But I'm very interested in finding out what's going on there."

for its dissolution," he declared.

But a challenge to the espionage idea was voiced in Los Angeles by Roger Levy, a 23-year-old senior at Cal State L.A. who is the school's delegate to the NSA.

"If the CIA has been putting money into the NSA," Levy said, "it's been a waste of taxpayer's money, because NSA policies certainly conflict with those stated by the U.S. government."

"For example, at our last congress, the NSA voted to abolish the draft, get out of Vietnam and to legalize both marijuana and LSD."

The UCLA student newspaper, the Daily Bruin, which has been critical of the CIA in the past, carried a news story on its front page Wednesday, but did not comment editorially.

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